



NEWSLETTER

A publication of the Arizona State Retirement System

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Spotlight On... *Service Purchase*

The Service Purchase program allows active members of the ASRS, and members who are receiving benefits under the ASRS Long Term Disability (LTD) Income Plan, to buy past credited service time under specific qualified categories. Adding additional service credit can increase your monthly lifelong benefit and/or qualify you for retirement at an earlier date.

A member must have a minimum of five years credited service before initiating a Service Purchase request, except for previously forfeited service. The amount of service credit a member may purchase is limited to five years per type of service, except for previously forfeited service. Members may not purchase service time for which they are receiving, or are eligible to receive, other retirement benefits. A request for service purchase must be initiated prior to termination of employment.

The cost to purchase service is based on the actuarial present value of the benefit. Actuarial present value considers the value of the benefit for the member in terms of the amount of money the ASRS must have on hand today to pay for that future benefit. Careful consideration should be given by members in determining if service purchase is right for them.

Several payment options are available to members.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The payment option to use a partial lump sum (PLS) distribution at the time of retirement to pay for a service purchase invoice **is scheduled to be eliminated for service purchase invoices issued on or after Jan. 6, 2013**. This change will be prospective only and is based on the service purchase request date, which is subject to rules and legislation in place on the date of that request.

To learn more about this program, including accessing an online Service Purchase Estimator, please visit the [Service Purchase](#) page on the ASRS website.

— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

Retiree Health Insurance 2013 Open Enrollment

The annual Open Enrollment period for the ASRS retiree health insurance program is **Monday, October 22-Friday, November 16**. The effective date for enrollment, or for elected changes to your ASRS coverage, is January 1, 2013. This is a passive enrollment, meaning retirees do not need to take any action if you are enrolled in ASRS insurance and you want your coverage to carry over to 2013. Your coverage will **automatically** carry forward.



Retirees should have received an Open Enrollment packet in the mail, including an Open Enrollment brochure. To learn more or to view the brochure and other information online, visit the [Retiree Health Insurance](#) page on the ASRS website.



Have You Seen Your Member Statement?

Each year, the ASRS has mailed individual member statements to nearly a half-million members. With a continued emphasis on cost-savings, going green and providing more timely information to our members, the ASRS has made available new and improved individual member statements online!

Last month, the ASRS mailed a postcard to members notifying them that statements are now online. We hope you take a moment to view your statement. You'll be able to see an up-to-date account statement including your account balance, service credit and projections for retirement benefits, including future retirement dates, monthly annuity benefit projections and more. You can also input your own timeline for retirement to see what your benefit would be based on the date you choose to retire.

Just [Login](#) to the ASRS secure section of our website. If you haven't had a chance to create a personal ASRS login, it only takes a few steps. Look for the 'first time registering' link, and an online [Guide to Registration](#) that outlines the process.

Member Education

It's never too early to plan for your retirement! Online webinars, in-person group meetings, and online video tutorials are part of our commitment to provide you the information and support you need. Whether you are new to the ASRS or are closing in on retirement, we have a learning opportunity to provide the information for this juncture in your career. Visit the [Member Education](#) page to schedule your session today!



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